

Blogging with Google's Blogger



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Learning Objectives

At the end of this lesson you should be able to:

- Create and customize a Web log in Blogger
- Post and format entries
- Insert images
- Reply to others' posts
- Subscribe to and follow others' blogs

What's Needed

- You will need an Internet-enabled computer with a web browser
- Google's Blogger, and Reader services

Getting Started

- Have a digital image of yourself prepared
- Open your web browser

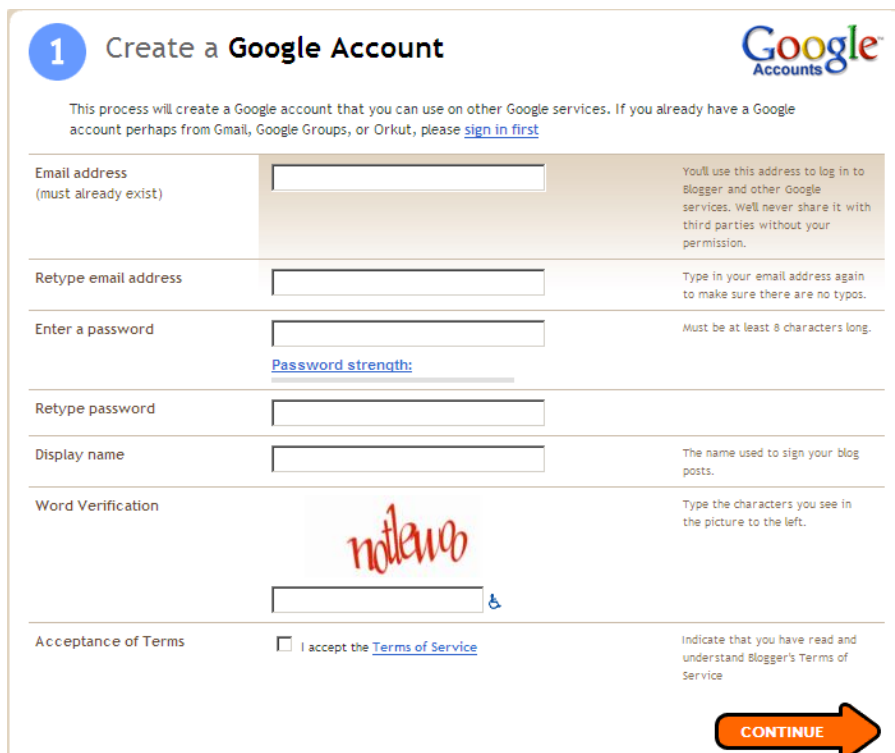
Start Blogging

1. To start a blog from scratch visit www.blogger.com. Otherwise move on to step 3.



The image shows the Blogger homepage. At the top, there's a blue header with the Blogger logo on the left and a sign-in section on the right. The sign-in section says "Sign in to use Blogger with your Google Account" and has fields for "Username (Email)" and "Password (?)" with a "SIGN IN" button and a "Remember me (?)" checkbox. Below the header, there's a main content area with a light beige background. On the left, it says "Create a blog. It's free." and lists three benefits: "Your blog" (Share your thoughts, photos, and more with your friends and the world.), "Easy to use" (It's easy to post text, photos, and videos from the web or your mobile phone.), and "Flexible" (Unlimited flexibility to personalize your blog with themes, gadgets, and more.). On the right, there's an orange "CREATE A BLOG" button with the text "It's easy, and only takes a minute." Below that, there's a "Learn more:" section with links to "Take a quick tour", "Watch a video tutorial", "Discover more features", and "Read Blogger Buzz". At the bottom right, there's a "Blogs of Note" section with a link to "So about what I said..."

2. You will only see the next screen if you did not previously create an iGoogle account:



The image shows the "Create a Google Account" form. At the top, there's a blue circle with the number "1" and the text "Create a Google Account". The Google Accounts logo is on the right. Below the header, there's a paragraph explaining the process: "This process will create a Google account that you can use on other Google services. If you already have a Google account perhaps from Gmail, Google Groups, or Orkut, please [sign in first](#)". The form consists of several rows, each with a label, an input field, and a description. The rows are: "Email address (must already exist)" with a text input field and a description "You'll use this address to log in to Blogger and other Google services. We'll never share it with third parties without your permission."; "Retype email address" with a text input field and a description "Type in your email address again to make sure there are no typos."; "Enter a password" with a text input field, a "Password strength:" indicator, and a description "Must be at least 8 characters long."; "Retype password" with a text input field; "Display name" with a text input field and a description "The name used to sign your blog posts."; "Word Verification" with a CAPTCHA image showing the word "notawab" and a text input field with a description "Type the characters you see in the picture to the left."; and "Acceptance of Terms" with a checkbox and the text "I accept the [Terms of Service](#)" and a description "Indicate that you have read and understand Blogger's Terms of Service". At the bottom right, there's an orange "CONTINUE" button with a right-pointing arrow.


3. Name your Blog. This is different than your account name because you can have multiple blogs.

2 Name your blog

Blog title	<input type="text"/> <small>Your blog's title will appear on your published blog, on your dashboard and in your profile.</small>
Blog address (URL)	http:// <input type="text"/> .blogspot.com Check Availability <small>The URL you select will be used by visitors to access your blog. Learn more</small>
Word Verification	 <input type="text"/> & <small>Type the characters you see in the picture.</small>
Advanced Options (you can always set up advanced options later)	
Host your blog	Want to host your blog somewhere else? Try Advanced Blog Setup . This will allow you to host your blog somewhere other than Blogspot.

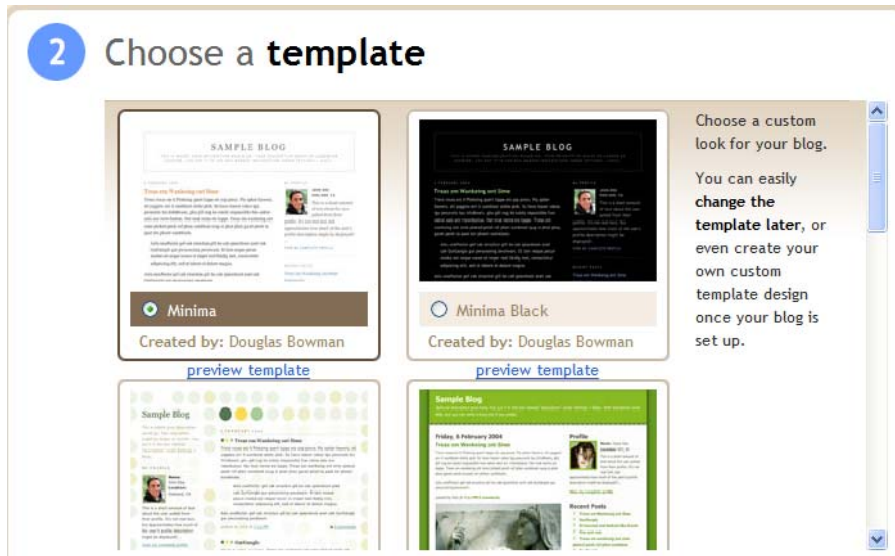
4. Fill out the form and enter the Word verification. Click Continue:

2 Name your blog

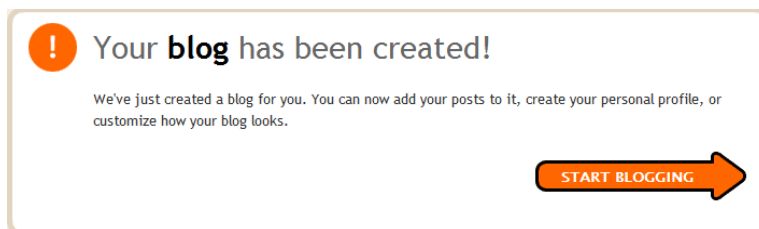
Blog title	aobweb20 <small>Your blog's title will appear on your published blog, on your dashboard and in your profile.</small>
Blog address (URL)	http://aobweb20. <input type="text"/> .blogspot.com Check Availability This blog address is available. <small>The URL you select will be used by visitors to access your blog. Learn more</small>
Word Verification	 <input type="text"/> & <small>Type the characters you see in the picture.</small>
Advanced Options (you can always set up advanced options later)	
Host your blog	Want to host your blog somewhere else? Try Advanced Blog Setup . This will allow you to host your blog somewhere other than Blogspot.

CONTINUE

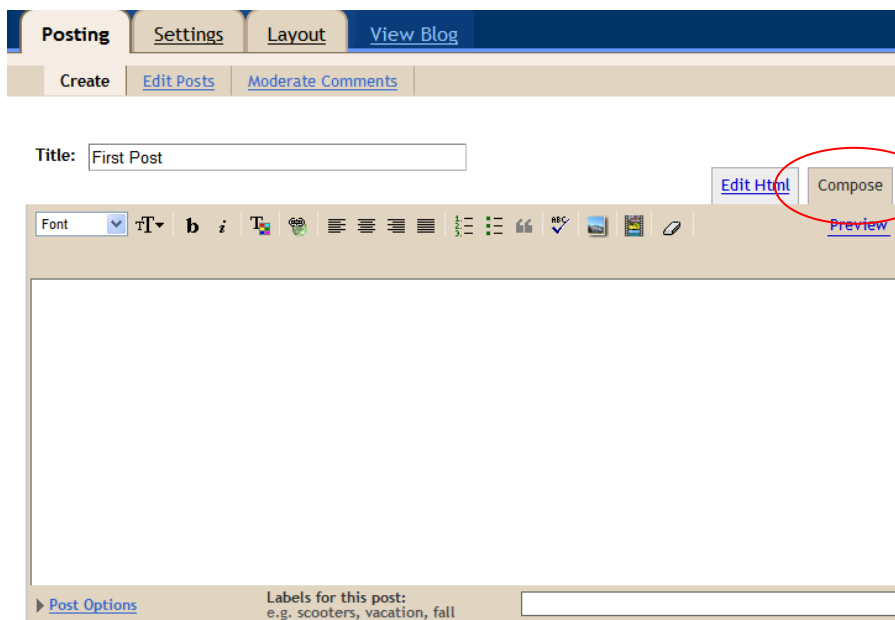
5. Choose a template to create the look and feel of your blog. You may change this at any time.



6. Your blog has been created. Click Start Blogging:



7. Create your first post by naming it (giving it a title for the entry, like a headline) and click the Compose tab



8. Enter your first post and tell us why you took this course. You have formatting tools much like Word. Be creative! To make a hyperlink, choose the icon with the chain and globe. Try to hyperlink to your school's website.

Title:

[Edit Html](#) [Compose](#)

[Preview](#)

Arial

In your post you can format just like you would in Word.

Bold *Italic*

Different fonts: Arial Courier Times New Roman

Different sizes: smallest small normal large largest

hyperlinks: <http://www.msnet.edu> Alignment - this is center

[Post Options](#) Labels for this post: e.g. scooters, vacation, fall

9. Publish your post:

PUBLISH POST

10. Congratulations! Click View Blog (in a new window).

Your blog post published successfully!

[View Blog](#) (in a new window)

Need to change it? [Edit post](#) | [Create a new post](#)

11. Notice the archive on the right. This is how people can view previous posts. Your “About Me” will only appear once you’ve set up an optional profile.

AOBWEB20

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

First Post

In your post you can format just like you would in Word.

Bold *Italic*

Different fonts: Arial Courier Times New Roman

Different sizes: smallest small normal large largest

Alignment - this is center

hyperlinks: <http://www.msnet.edu>

POSTED BY PAUL AT 5:48 PM 0 COMMENTS

Subscribe to: [Posts \(Atom\)](#)

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2008 (1)

▼ July (1)

[First Post](#)

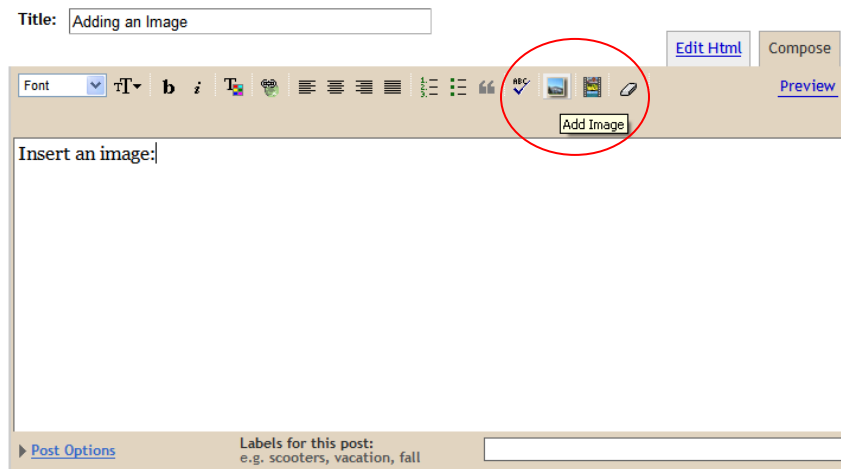
ABOUT ME

PAUL

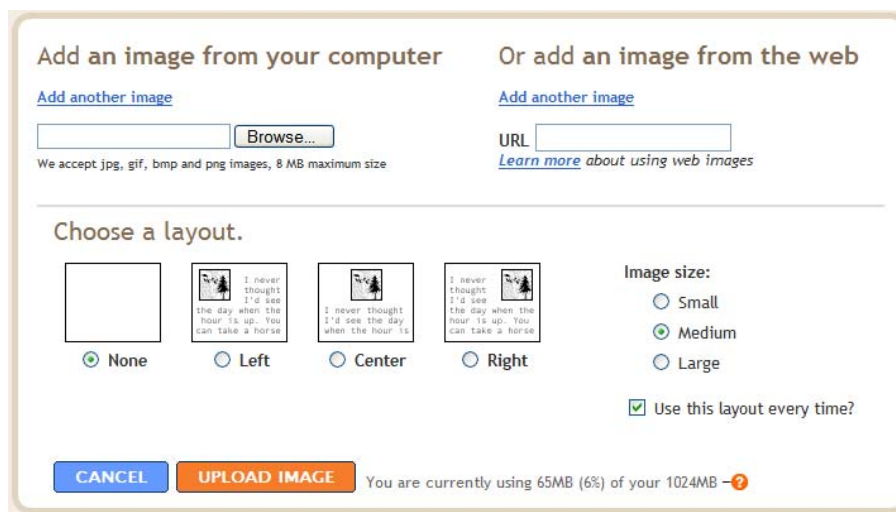
I am a busy guy.
One of my mottos:
If I am not learning
or making money, I don't want to
be on a computer.

[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)

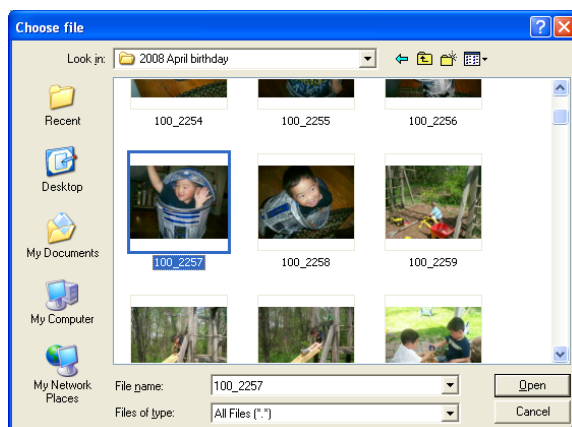
12. To insert an image, click the icon with a picture (next to the ABC spell-check).



13. You will be presented with this screen. Click Browse.



14. Choose an image by navigating your folders then click Open.



15. Click Upload Image:

Add an image from your computer

[Add another image](#)

[Browse...](#)


We accept jpg, gif, bmp and png images, 8 MB maximum size


Or add an image from the web


[Add another image](#)

[Learn more about using web images](#)

Choose a layout.


☒ None


☐ Left


☐ Center



☐ Right

Image size:

☐ Small

☒ Medium

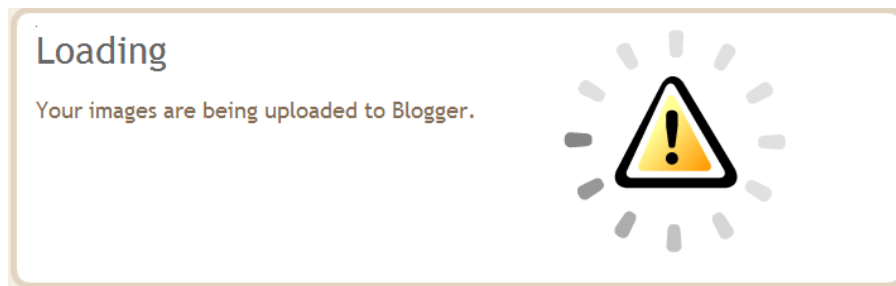
☐ Large

☒ Use this layout every time?

[CANCEL](#) [UPLOAD IMAGE](#)

You are currently using 65MB (6%) of your 1024MB [?](#)

16. Upload progress:



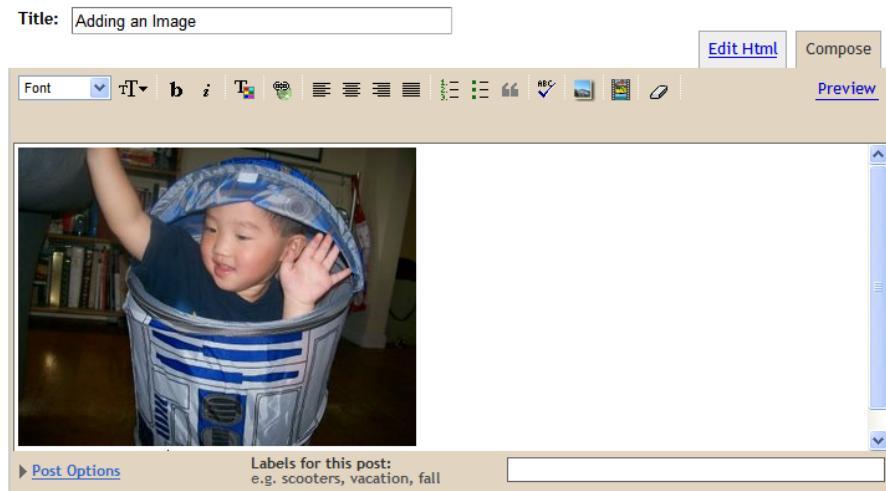
17. Your image has been added.



After clicking "Done" you can change your post and publish to your blog.



18. Back on the Compose screen you may continue to add text or more images.



19. Once you post you may preview it:

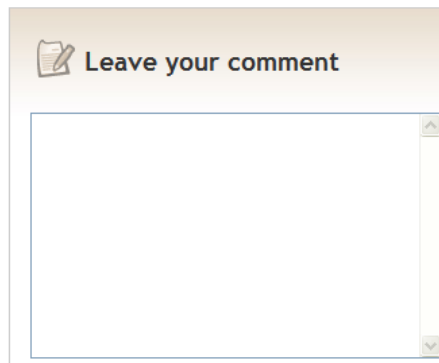


20. Adding a comment: Just click the comment link. In step 19 it says 0 comments, but once people comment the number will change. The comment box looks like this:

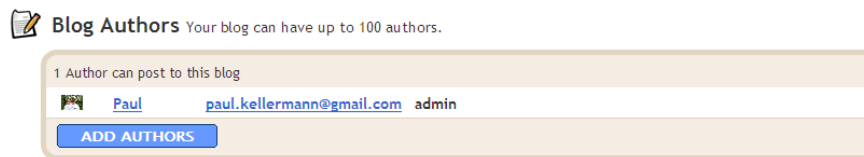
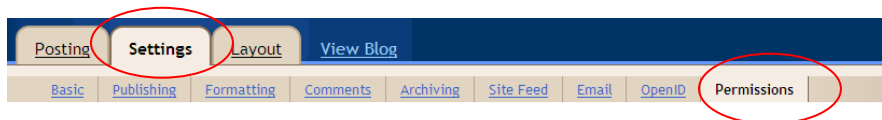
Post a Comment On: [aobweb20](#)

"Adding an Image"

No comments yet. - [Show Original Post](#)



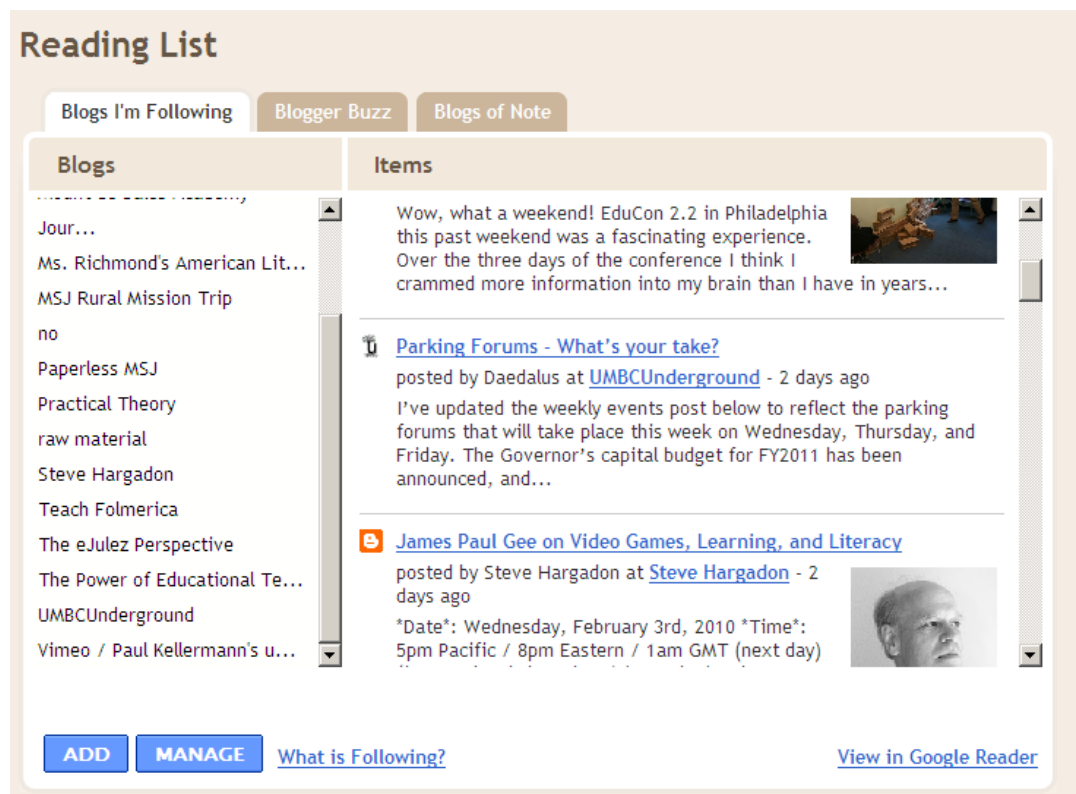
21. Controlling access is easy. You may add authors so other people can create original posts, or allow certain people to comment. Click on Settings, then Permissions.



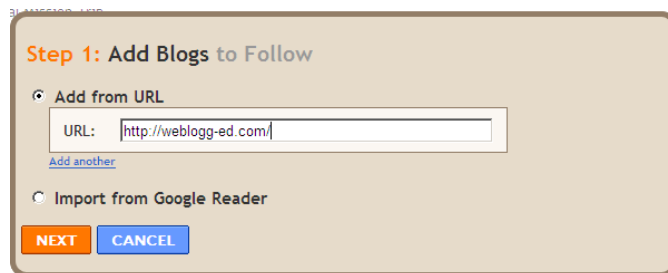
Following Blogs

If you want to keep up with what a blogger is doing, you may subscribe to their blog feed or “follow” as Google puts it.

1. Visit <http://weblogg-ed.com/>
2. Copy the URL (web address) and return to your Blogger dashboard. Scroll down until you see your Reading List. Yours will be blank initially. Click the ADD button.



3. Paste the address into the text box and click the NEXT button.



4. Click the FOLLOW button.

Step 2: Following Options

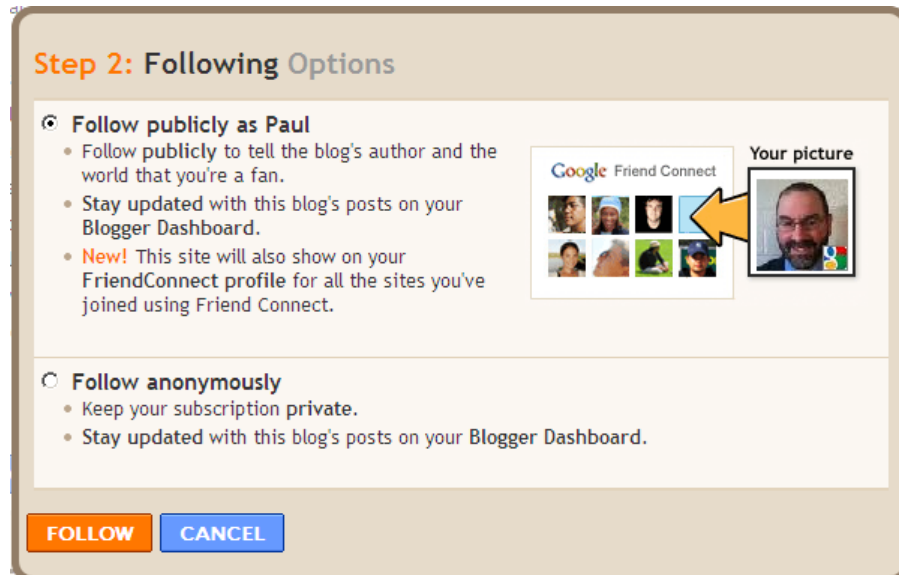
☒ **Follow publicly as Paul**

- Follow publicly to tell the blog's author and the world that you're a fan.
- Stay updated with this blog's posts on your Blogger Dashboard.
- New!** This site will also show on your FriendConnect profile for all the sites you've joined using Friend Connect.

☐ **Follow anonymously**

- Keep your subscription private.
- Stay updated with this blog's posts on your Blogger Dashboard.

FOLLOW **CANCEL**



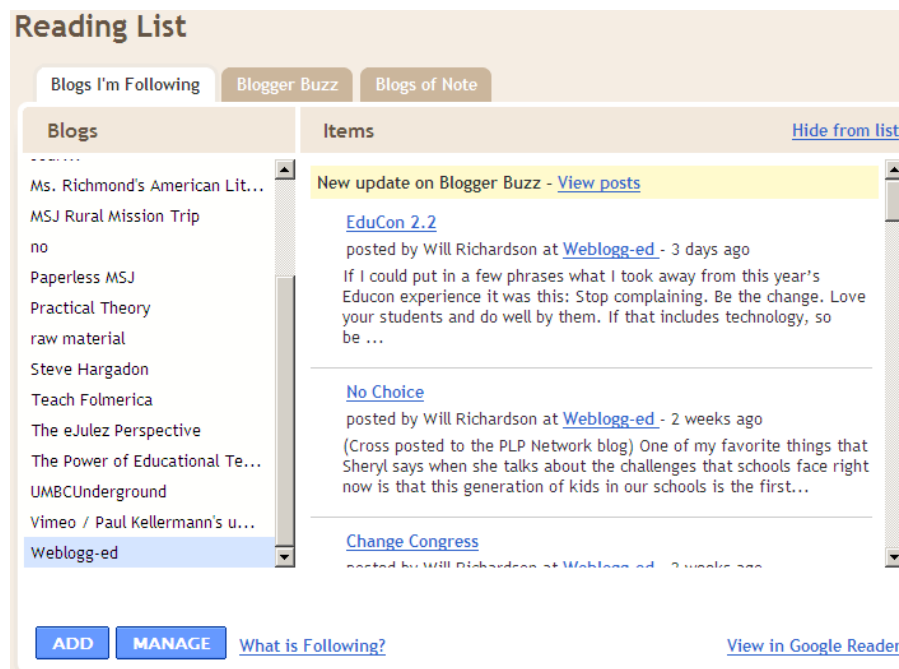
5. Will Richardson's blog, weblog-ed, is now on your reading list:

Reading List

Blogs I'm Following | Blogger Buzz | Blogs of Note

Blogs	Items
Ms. Richmond's American Lit...	New update on Blogger Buzz - View posts
MSJ Rural Mission Trip	EduCon 2.2 posted by Will Richardson at Weblogg-ed - 3 days ago If I could put in a few phrases what I took away from this year's Educon experience it was this: Stop complaining. Be the change. Love your students and do well by them. If that includes technology, so be ...
no	No Choice posted by Will Richardson at Weblogg-ed - 2 weeks ago (Cross posted to the PLP Network blog) One of my favorite things that Sheryl says when she talks about the challenges that schools face right now is that this generation of kids in our schools is the first...
Paperless MSJ	Change Congress posted by Will Richardson at Weblogg-ed - 2 weeks ago
Practical Theory	
raw material	
Steve Hargadon	
Teach Folmerica	
The eJulez Perspective	
The Power of Educational Te...	
UMBCUnderground	
Vimeo / Paul Kellermann's u...	
Weblogg-ed	

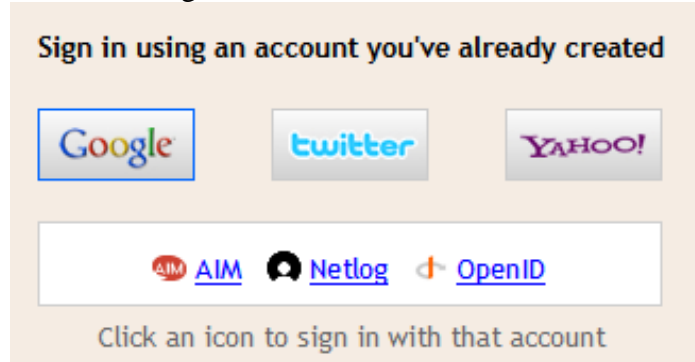
ADD **MANAGE** [What is Following?](#) [View in Google Reader](#)



6. Visit Ryan Folmer's blog <http://www.folmerica.net/>
7. Scroll down the page – quite a bit – until you see the Follow button on the lower-right side. Click the button.



8. Click the Google button.



9. Add the Mount Saint Joseph News: (follow steps 2 – 4 above)

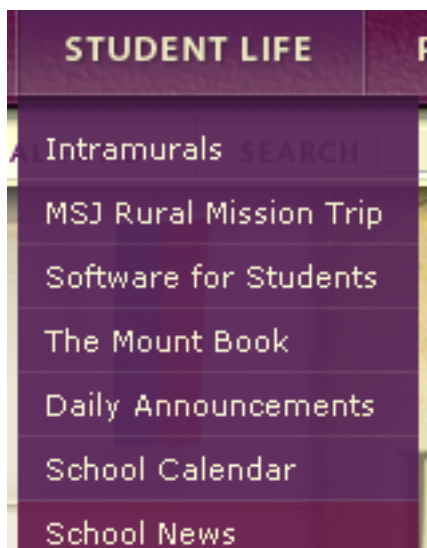
See below for the **process** – you may copy and paste this address for the shortcut.

<http://mountstjoseph.ccsct.com/rss.cfm?news=6>

10. Older videos of my son Luke: <http://vimeo.com/channel24047/clips/rss>
11. Add a few of your classmates' blogs.

Process for adding an RSS feed using the RSS button on a web page:

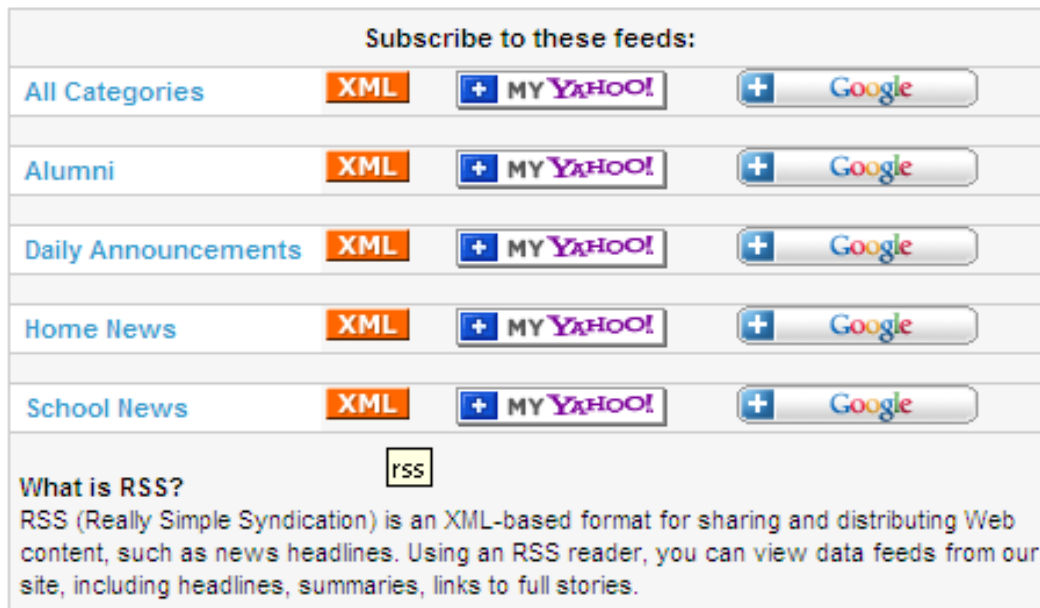
1. Visit the Mount Saint Joseph web site. www.msjnet.edu
2. Click on the Student Life tab, then the School News button in the drop-down menu.



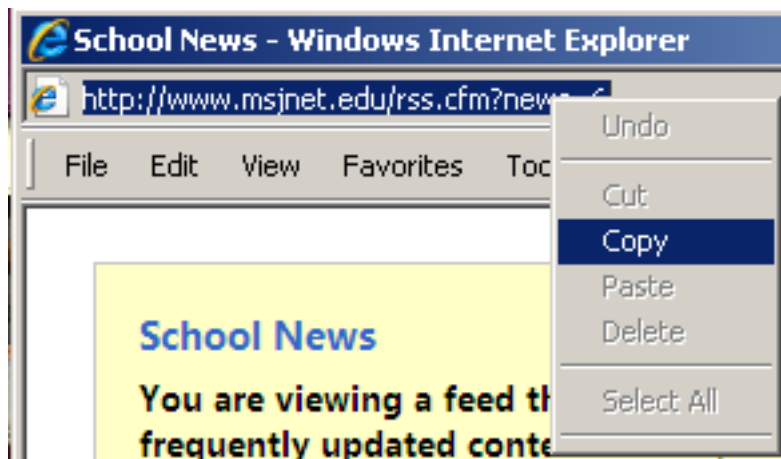
3. On the right you will see these icons. Click the RSS one.



4. You will be presented with this screen. Click the XML button.



5. At the top of the next window will be a feed address. Select it and right-click to copy it.



6. Go back to your Reading List and follow steps 2 – 4 in the previous section (Following Blogs – page 10) to add the news feed to your reading list.